

AN OPTICAL DEVICE THAT MEASURES  
DISTANCE BETWEEN THE DEVICE AND A SURFACE

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5           An optical device and methods thereof are described. The device  
includes a first light source adapted to emit light onto a surface, and a detector  
adapted to receive light reflected from the surface. The reflected light  
produces a speckle pattern. The distance between the optical device and the  
surface can be measured using a quantifiable attribute associated with the  
10 speckle pattern.